

"Mr Primrose, to see Mr Webb "

Even Lord Rosebery's personal efforts did not, however avail To him, quite frankly, Webb stated his view—the Liberals were going to be in Opposition for twenty years, he could do much more good outside the House of Commons than inside Anyhow, that he could ever have been a Liberal member, however independent, seems unlikely Deep as his alienation from the pro-Boer attitude, as from every attitude based merely on sentiment, however exalted, there was no change whatever in his general Collectivist outlook The difference between him and the I L P was a difference about method, and arose out of his passion for getting things done The "condition of England" question seemed to him, as to Mrs Webb, of first concern They must always have fundamentally agreed with Carlyle's irritation against persons who fly into a passion about the "green and yellow and black slaves," while the actual sufferings of millions of white slaves so much nearer at hand leave them practically unconcerned Their optimism as well as their realism came into play here Rather than the desperate and showy romance of storming impregnable battlements with flying flags, doomed to go down in defeat, they have always chosen the slow and steady path round and ultimately up the citadel As they were to put it much later

"We are not pessimists, because we believe that, sooner or later, good feeling and reason will prevail "

Never in the darkest hour did they doubt of progress
Never did they give up working for it, whoever

disagreed
with them

If they have always believed in reason, their
practical
good feeling has been not less striking As a
very young
woman, she says "I love my friends—have
never yet lost
one " This remained true of both Deep
differences of
opinion on the Education Act made only the
briefest sus-